

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 AGR-05 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01

OMB-01 ARA-06 CAB-02 DOTE-00 FAA-00 INT-05 FEA-01

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R 271309Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 265

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON UNN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMCONSUL LUANDA UNN

AMEMBASSY LISBON UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10011

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, AO, PINT

SUBJ: MOBUTU ADDRESSES THE NATION

1. SUMMARY: MOBUTU'S NOVEMBER 25, 1974 ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS TO THE NATION WAS DEFENSIVE IN TONE AND EMPHASIZED AUSTERITY. IT PROBABLY DISAPPOINTED RANK-AND-FILE WHO, AGAIN THIS YEAR, HAD LOOKED FOR SOME RELIEF FROM EROSION OF PURCHASING POWER. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT MOBUTU, SPEAKING TO PACKED STADIUM IN KINSHASA NOVEMBER 25 ON OCCASION 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION, DELIVERED ONE-AND-ONE-HALF HOUR ADDRESS CARRIED LIVE ON TV AND RADIO. FOREIGN POLICY CONTENT FAIRLY LIGHT. NOTABLY ABSENT WERE CRITICAL REFERENCES TO
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BELGIUM AS WELL AS ANY ANNOUCEMENT OF FURTHER ZAIRIANI-

ZATION MEASURES. MOBUTU RIDICULED FACTUAL ERRORS OF FOREIGN (NOTABLY FRENCH) PRESS CRITICAL OF ZAIRE'S HOSTSHIP OF ALI-FOREMAN MATCH. BUT HE COMMENDED FRENCH AUTHORS OF "THE GREAT REVOLUTIONS OF THE WORLD" WHICH GROUPS ZAIRE'S REVOLUTION WITH THOSE OF FRANCE, RUSSIA, THE UNITED STATES, CUBA, CHINA AND ALGERIA. MOBUTU ALSO INTRODUCED TO CROWD THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES, ANGOLAN LIBERATION LEADERS SAVIMBI (UNITA), HOLDEN (FNLA), AND CHIPENDA (MPLA-EAST), AS WELL AS AN UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIA'S SWAPO AND A TROOP OF LIBYAN DANCERS COME TO JOIN IN THE OBSERVANCES. OTHER TOPICS FOLLOW:

3. ALI-FOREMAN FIGHT. MOBUTU REJECTED CHARGE OF FINANCIAL WASTE. HE CLAIMED THAT, DESPITE SLANDER AND ATTEMPTED SABOTAGE OF COMMUNICATIONS, EVENT WAS MASTERFULLY STAGED. HE DENIED ANY MONETARY LOSS, ARGUING THAT ZAIRE HAD NO FINANCIAL OBLIGATION TO BOXERS, HAD PROVIDED GUARANTEE TO ORGANIZERS BUT, AFTER COSTS AND ORGANIZER'S SHARE OF \$10M (ALREADY PAID), ZAIRE ENTITLED TO 43 PERCENT OF REMAINING PROCEEDS, PLUS REVENUE FROM FILM RIGHTS IN AFRICA AND IRAN. INSISTED THAT ZAIRIANS WHO HAD RECEIVED GOVERNMENT LOANS TO MAKE HOMES READY FOR TOURISTS WOULD HAVE TO REPAY THOSE LOANS. READ OUT CABLE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION. MOBUTU ADDED THAT SINCE BEFORE FIGHT ZAIRIAN WOMEN HAD BEEN ACTING ODDLY, HE WOULD HAVE "PRIVATE" TALK WITH 5000 OF THEM AT N'SELE AUDITORIUM ON NOVEMBER 30.

4. FOREIGN TRADE. UNLOOKED-FOR BY-PRODUCT OF ZAIRIANIZATION HAS BEEN CREATION OF CLASS OF NEW-RICH. IMPORTATION OF LARGER MERCEDES AND OTHER LARGE FOREIGN CARS IS TO BE BANNED FOR A YEAR. SIXTY PERCENT OF ZAIRE'S MEAT IMPORTS ARE OF TOP-GRADE FILETS. ZAIRE CANNOT INDULGE IN SUCH LUXURIOUS LIVING. ZAIRE SHOULD BY LOCAL AND PROTECT ITS CURRENCY IN ORDER TO BUILD UP INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. WORLD IS SUFFERING ECONOMIC RECESSION. CONSEQUENCES ARE VERY GRAVE. MORE THAN 200,000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN LAID OFF BY LARGE AUTOMOBILE FIRMS, INCLUDING GIANT GENERAL MOTORS. PRICE

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OF COPPER HAS FALLEN DRASTICALLY. ZAIRE HAS MOVED TO DEFEND ITSELF BY JOINING CHILE, PERU AND ZAMBIA IN ADOPTING 10 PERCENT PRODUCTION CUT FROM DECEMBER 1, 1974. FOR FOUR COUNTRIES THIS WOULD ADD UP TO TOTAL CUT OF 40 PERCENT (SIC).

5. INVESTMENT. ALL ZAIRE WILL PROFIT FROM CURRENT OR PLANNED INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRIALI-

ZATION: RAILROADS KINDU-KINSHASA AND BANANA-MOANDA;
NATIONWIDE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE; 14 AIRPORTS, OPEN
ROUND-CLOCK; EXPANDED MERCHANT MARINE; NEW, SINGLE-CLASS
BOAT SERVICE KINSHASA-KISANGANI; TEXTILE, STEEL, AND
LUMBER MILLS; 500 NEW BUSES; GERMAN-FINANCED DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT FOR NORTH EAST. ZAIRE IS INVESTING AND MUST
CONTINUE TO INVEST.

6. AMNESTY. GENERAL AMNESTY ANNOUNCED FOR 4000
EX-GENDARMES FROM EX-KATANGA (CURRENTLY LIVING IN
ANGOLA), OTHER POLITICAL EXILES, AND POLITICAL PRISONERS.
MOBUTU RECALLED THAT HIS 1973 VISIT TO CHINA HAD
IMPRESSED HIM WITH POSSIBILITY OF PRISONLESS SOCIETY.
POLITICAL BUREAU WILL SHORTLY TACKLE THIS PROBLEM SINCE
PRISONS ARE CLEARLY NOT THE ANSWER TO LAW-BREAKING.

7. COMMENT: MAN-IN-STREET REACTION TO SPEECH HAS BEEN
COOL. FEW OF THE SUBJECTS TREATED HAD GUT APPEAL FOR
RANK-AND-FILE. THEY HAD FEARED HIKE IN BUS FARES, BUT
HAD HOPED FOR INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGES. RECEIVING
NEITHER, GENERAL REACTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RELIEF
MIXED WITH DISAPPOINTMENT. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER,
THAT MOBUTU WILL SPEAK AGAIN PRIOR TO HIS LIKELY
DECEMBER TRAVEL.
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